

programs have been available only to the affluent who have the resources to take advantage of preschool opportunities and to poor families in programs such as Head Start, who may need extra help. Research on high quality early learning programs uniformly demonstrates that graduates are less likely to be arrested than other students; are less likely to be held back; are less likely to need special education; and are more likely to achieve a higher level of education attainment.

Parents of children under age 5 who attend daycare pay an average of \$79 weekly, or \$4,000 annually. Yet, undergraduate tuition at the University of Virginia is about \$4,800 annually and about \$6,000 at the University of Michigan. Over 60 percent of mothers with children under age 6 work, a proportion that is increasing as more women pour into the workforce, including welfare-to-work mothers now rapidly moving to jobs. For the average family, the need is palpable and the expense is exorbitant. The vast majority of families cannot afford the cost of childcare, with the result that parents place their children wherever an accessible place can be found, regardless of quality. Even subsidized early childhood education reaches only a small fraction of low-income children.

This bill seeks to demonstrate that we can achieve meaningful and significant gains in preparing American children for a lifetime of learning by taking fuller advantage of the early malleability of their developing brains at an early age. The absence of viable options for working families to educate their children at the most important stage in life demands our immediate attention. Considering the staggering cost of daycare, the inaccessibility of early education, and the opportunity earlier education offers to improve a child's chances in life, 4-year-old kindergarten is overdue. I urge my colleagues to use the opportunity presented by the reauthorization of ESEA to make up for lost time by incorporating the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Act.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. USE OF COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER FUNDS FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

Section 10905 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8245) is amended—

(1) by striking "Grants awarded" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded";

(2) by inserting after "may be used" the following: "to plan, implement, or expand pre-kindergarten programs described in subsection (b) or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.—A pre-kindergarten program described in this subsection is a program of a community learning center that provides pre-kindergarten curriculum and classes for students 4 years of age or younger and is taught by teachers who possess equivalent or similar qualifications to those of teachers of other grades in the school involved."

IN HONOR OF PHILIP J. McLEWIN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Philip J. McLewin's twenty-five years of leadership and service on behalf of the Bergen County Central Trades and Labor Council, AFL-CIO, including sixteen years as President of the Council.

It is a unique honor and privilege for me to acknowledge Phil's extensive efforts on behalf of working men and women. In addition to being a fierce advocate for workers, he has been a good friend and I will miss working with him on those issues that are important to America's families.

For over two decades, Phil's extraordinary leadership has brought an unprecedented brand of determination and purpose to the cause of the labor community of northern New Jersey. Thanks to Phil's advocacy, working men and women of Bergen County can go to sleep at night secure in the knowledge that they have a safe workplace, fair wages, and a reasonable pension.

During his tenure as President of the Bergen County Central Trades and Labor Council, Phil built the organization into an important voice for working families, and turned it into a source of pride for its membership. The number of local unions affiliated with the Council doubled and participation of its members increased tenfold.

As the founder of the Council's community service program, the United Labor Agency of Bergen County, Phil created an agency committed to helping those workers who have encountered hard times. By providing New Jersey's union members with both the opportunity and the means to help their fellow workers, this agency has imbued the workers of northern New Jersey with a sense of togetherness and pride, and has even grown into a national model for community service.

Phil's recognition of the integral role that our nation's unions have played in making America prosper has earned him the law and respect of northern New Jersey's labor community. His commitment to the Bergen County Central Trades and Labor Council is unparalleled and serves as a model of excellence for all those who care about working men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to Philip J. McLewin and I hope that his next endeavor is a successful as his last one has been.

THE CASABLANCA CONFERENCE— AN HISTORIC MEETING OF WORLD WAR II ALLIES

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the following article by Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed, former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco, from the

March 1999 Newsletter of the American Society of the French Legion of Honor, documents the war time diplomacy between the United States and Great Britain. The Casablanca Conference between President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill took place in early 1943, and as this article documents set the stage for the end game of World War II in the European theater.

[From the ASFLH Newsletter, March 1999]

THE CASABLANCA CONFERENCE, JANUARY 1943

(By Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed)

In the spring edition of the ASFLH Newsletter (June 1998, Vol. 5, No. 2), an article on the history of the White House by our President, Guy Wildenstein, caught my eye. Regarding the historic 1943 meeting of President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill in Casablanca, Morocco, it was noted that Marshall Josef Stalin and General Charles de Gaulle were also participants at the conference. In point of clarification, Marshall Stalin did not attend the Casablanca Conference. General de Gaulle had a "cameo role" on the last day of the ten-day event.

Herewith are some details on the Casablanca Conference which took place in Morocco in early 1943—a summit meeting which determined the future course of American and British wartime operations and history.

As a former Ambassador to Morocco, I spent many days at the elegant Villa Mirador, the official residence of the Consul General of the US in Casablanca. Villa Mirador served as Prime Minister Churchill's residence during the Casablanca Conference. President Roosevelt was hosted nearby in Villa Dar es Saada (House of Happiness). The master bedroom is located on the ground floor—a suitable layout for the handicapped President.

In the closing months of 1942, debate over European strategy had entered a new stage. On November 25, President Roosevelt wrote to Prime Minister Churchill that a high level meeting should be held with the Russians, perhaps in Cairo or Moscow itself, to discuss the Alliance war effort. The US had been at war for less than a full year. Roosevelt and Churchill had yet to meet jointly with Stalin to discuss the basic strategy of their "Alliance"—an odd alliance forged only through the necessity of combating a common enemy—Nazi Germany and the apocalyptic horrors of World War II.

Roosevelt, believing a meeting of the Alliance would be held in Cairo, proposed to Churchill in a second letter dated December 2, 1942, to have a private bilateral Anglo-American meeting at a site south of Algiers or in Khartoum prior to meeting with the Russians. The President wanted to keep this advance meeting secret as he did "not want to give Stalin the impression we are settling everything between ourselves before we meet him." In his letter, Roosevelt noted that "Stalin has already agreed to a purely military conference to be held in Moscow."

Two weeks later, on December 17, 1942, Roosevelt reported to Churchill that Stalin had sent a reply expressing his regret that he would be unable to attend a meeting of the Alliance leadership as it was "impossible for me [Stalin] to leave the Soviet Union either in the near future or even at the beginning of March. Front business absolutely prevents it, demanding my constant presence near our troops." (N.B. During the winter of '42-'43, Marshall Stalin was in day-to-day command of the defense of Stalingrad.)

In his communiqué Stalin said nothing about a military meeting with Roosevelt and